

*Volunteers as
Caregivers*

VA Voluntary Service

**Laura Balun, Director
Voluntary Service Office**

Every one will be impacted by caregiving. You will either know a caregiver, be a caregiver or need someone at one time or another.

A smile is a curve that sets everything straight! Volunteers can provide that curve.....

VA Voluntary Service is about...

Providing supplemental support in caring for veterans



Seeking and securing supplemental funding to support the specific program

Volunteers in Action



Volunteer Caregiver



**Caregiver greeting
volunteer**



Getting Acquainted

Stats of Current Volunteer Trends in VA

VAVS had 94,000 plus volunteers on the rolls in FY 2005 and contributed close 13 million hours of service to veterans

National data indicates that: over 600 volunteers provided more than 40,000 hours to providing care to veterans in the home

VA Voluntary Service assignments

Respite Volunteers—visit veterans in the home to give the care giver a “break”

Good Neighbor Volunteer—visit veterans in the home, provide socialization and advocacy

New Programs that will be added in the near future are: Philadelphia and Batavia

*Since we met last
year...*

- **Began having conference calls with VISN 22 SWS, VAVS Managers and until VAVS staffing levels dropped in VACO**
- **Gathered tools from existing programs, began development of national toolkit**
- **Developed a relationship with Faith and Action
Informed the stations of the Faith and Action
resource
Identified cities where we will explore “pilot
programs**

*Since we met last
year...*

Sought guidance from General Counsel on
volunteer assignments and what VAVS
volunteers may be covered for...their guidance:

***VA has authority to provide medical care and
"health-related services" in veterans' homes.
The health-related services are homemaker and
home health aide services.***

VAVS Administrative Steps

- Develop a relationship with Care Coordination Staff*
- Develop volunteer assignments*
- Provide a toolkit to VAVS staff*
- GC indicated that VSO or church groups can provide services that VA volunteers do not have the authority to provide*